

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 69
Barrow, Alaska 99723

Phone: (907) 852-2611
(907) 852-0320

Fax: (907) 852-0322



Johnny L. Aiken, Director

April 10, 2006

Mr. David Easter
Natural Resource Specialist
Office of Project Management and Permitting
302 Gold Street, Suite 202
Juneau, AK 99811-1030

Dear Mr. Easter:

This letter responds to your March 30, 2006 letter requesting additional information for the final draft plan amendment submittal for the North Slope Borough's Coastal Management Plan. Your letter requested 4 items that are discussed separately below. The enclosed supplemental CD includes the requested information.

1984 Background Report

Appendix A in our submittal included the electronic copy of the 1984 Background Report that was provided by your office in an August 31, 2004 CD. Unfortunately, that file only included part of the Background Report. The supplemental CD now includes the entire background report.

1988 Coastal Management Plan

Our March 1 submittal included an error in the title of Appendix M. It was mislabeled as including chapters 3 and 4 from the 1984 Coastal Management Plan. The electronic copy of these chapters were provided by your office and identified as part of the 1988 plan. The enclosed CD includes the same electronic files with the corrected title. In addition, we have re-submitted the Table of Contents and Chapter 1 to reflect the corrected title of the appendix.

Important Habitat

Your letter requested more information about the scientific evidence that the area 1,000 feet on either side of anadromous fish streams is significantly and biologically productive. The enclosed CD updates the following sections of the plan:

- Section 7.6.3.3: This section updates the discussion of the biologic importance of the important habitat for anadromous waterbodies in the resource inventory.
- Section 7.6.4.3: This section updates the discussion about the effects of activities occurring in the important habitat area.
- Section 7.16: The references have been expanded to support the new information described above.
- Appendix D: The justification for the important habitat area has been expanded to provide more information about the 1000-foot area on either side of anadromous waters.

In addition, the existing discussion in Section 7.6.3.9 references scientific studies that support the connection between inland areas and coastal waters. Many of the cited studies specifically discuss anadromous fish streams and the biologic importance of areas adjacent to such streams.

While the studies cited in the revised plan provide ample scientific evidence of the productivity of areas far inland, we chose to include only a 1,000-foot area on either side of anadromous water bodies in our important habitat justification.

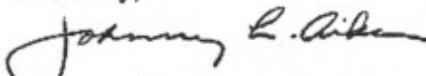
Public Comments

The enclosed CD includes copies of all public comments received on the public review draft of our coastal management plan. I understand that our March 1, 2006 submittal included hard copies of the public comments we received that were not posted on your webpage. As requested, however, the supplemental CD includes those comments as well as the comments posted on your website at

<http://alaskacoast.state.ak.us/District/Plans/NorthSlopeComments.htm>

The North Slope Borough looks forward to working with you during your review of our final draft plan amendment. As the Borough discussed with Director Randy Bates and Kerry Howard last week, the borough would like to meet with OPMP staff to discuss the plan after you have received input from state agencies but before release of the preliminary commissioner's recommendation. Please let me know when it would be convenient to meet with you in Juneau.

Sincerely,



Johnny Aiken, Director
Planning and Community Services

cc: Edward S. Itta, Mayor
George Olemaun, Chief Administrative Office
Harold Curran, Borough Attorney
Glenn Gray, Glenn Gray & Associates